UNITED NATIONS

CEDAW

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Distr.
GENERAL

CEDAW/C/SR.309
23 February 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Fifteenth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 309th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 2 February 1996, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Ms. CORTI

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AT ITS FIFTEENTH SESSION (CEDAW/C/1996/L.1 and Add.1 and 2, Add.3/Rev.1, Add.4/Rev.1, Add.5/Rev.1, Add.6/Rev.1 and Add.7 to 12)

1. Ms. SCHÖPP-SCHILLING, Rapporteur, introduced the Committee's report.

CEDAW/C/1996/L.1

2. Ms. TIMOTHY (Representative of the Secretary-General) said that there were 151 States parties to the Convention, not 150 as stated in paragraph 1.

3. Ms. BARE, referring to paragraphs 22 and 23, said that she had served in Working Group I, not Working Group II, and that Ms. Bustelo Garcia del Real had not been a member of Working Group II.

4. Document CEDAW/C/1996/L.1, as orally amended, was adopted.

CEDAW/C/1996/L.1/Add.1

5. Ms. SCHÖPP-SCHILLING, Rapporteur, read out the text of a new paragraph which was to be inserted between paragraphs 6 and 7. The paragraph drew attention to the support expressed by the chairpersons of human rights treaty bodies for the proposal to relocate the Committee to Geneva.

6. Ms. TIMOTHY (Representative of the Secretary-General) said that the second sentence of paragraph 9 should be replaced by the following text: "In the course of 1995 there had been 12 new ratifications of or accessions to the Convention".

7. Document CEDAW/C/1996/L.1/Add.1, as orally amended, was adopted.

CEDAW/C/1996/L.1/Add.2

8. Ms. SCHÖPP-SCHILLING, Rapporteur, read out a series of editorial changes intended to bring the document into line with the text of the Beijing Platform for Action.

9. Document CEDAW/C/1996/L.1/Add.2, as orally amended, was adopted.

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10. Ms. SCHÖPP-SCHILLING, Rapporteur, recalled that, in accordance with the new procedure, those documents had already been approved.

CEDAW/C/1996/L.1/Add.12

11. Document CEDAW/C/1996/L.1/Add.12 was adopted.

12. The report of the Committee as a whole was adopted.

13. Ms. CARTWRIGHT recalled that she had drawn the Committee's attention to a number of errors in the compilation of its general recommendations and that the representative of the Secretary-General had assured her that the document in question would be revised.

14. Ms. SCHÖPP-SCHILLING, Rapporteur, pointed out that she had asked the Secretariat to send her the final text of the Committee's report before it was printed, since the revised texts of the concluding comments on some reports was not yet available. She had also asked the Secretariat to review the document detailing the commitments made by member States at the Fourth World Conference on Women, since the information concerning her own country, Germany, was incorrect.

15. She would like, based upon her own experience as Rapporteur during the previous two sessions, to make a number of suggestions for improving the Rapporteur's work. She planned to submit a document summarizing those experiences.

16. At an early stage in its next session, the Committee should agree on guidelines for drafting its concluding comments, paying particular attention to such elements as format, headings, summaries and recommendations. The subject-matter should follow the order of the articles of the Convention and, in making its recommendations and suggestions, the Committee should decide whether to include references to specific articles.

17. Ms. ABAKA, speaking on a point of order, said that although the Rapporteur's observations would undoubtedly be of great value for the Committee's future work, it would be better to wait until the Committee had before it the document which Ms. Schöpp-Schilling had undertaken to prepare.

18. Ms. ESTRADA CASTILLO noted that the amended final recommendations in respect of certain countries, including Cuba and Paraguay, were being adopted even though the documents in question were not available.

19. The CHAIRPERSON said that the translations of the documents were not all completed. Nevertheless, the report would faithfully reflect all the agreed additions to the final recommendations. With regard to the proposal made at the Chairpersons' meeting on the follow up to the International Conference on Population and Development and on cooperation between the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other treaty bodies, it had been decided that the Executive Director of UNFPA should issue a formal invitation to the Committee. The Chairperson was already in receipt of the letter in which the Committee was invited to cooperate with UNFPA in bringing together representatives of various treaty bodies for a round-table discussion on implementation and monitoring of the reproductive and sexual health and development aspects of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the

Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women. She intended to respond positively to the invitation on the Committee's behalf.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

20. After an exchange of courtesies, the CHAIRPERSON declared the session closed.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.